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Annual Report



OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
OF THE
Urban Sanitary Authority
OF
EAST DEREHAM,
Norfolk.

EAST DEREHAM:

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1946



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EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1945

Sec A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Area, (in acres), | ... | ... | ... | 5,313 |
| Population, (Census 1931), | ... | ... | ... | 5,643 |
| „ (Registrar General's estimate, 1945), | ... | ... | ... | 5,721 |
| Number of inhabited houses, (end 1945) | ... | ... | ... | 1,839 |
| Rateable value, | ... | ... | ... | £26,973 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | ... | £102/19/3 |

The estimated population varied during the war years as follows :

| | | | | | |
|------|-----|-------|------|-----|-------|
| 1939 | ... | 5,788 | 1942 | ... | 6,552 |
| 1940 | ... | 6,262 | 1943 | ... | 6,403 |
| 1941 | ... | 6,640 | 1944 | ... | 6,214 |

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

| | | | Totals | M | F |
|---|--------------|-----|--------|-----|------|
| Live Births | Legitimate | ... | 100 | 38 | 62 |
| | Illegitimate | ... | 15 | 5 | 10 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | | | ... | ... | 20·1 |
| Still Births | Legitimate | ... | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | Illegitimate | ... | — | — | — |
| Rate per 1,000, (Live and Still), births | | | ... | ... | 25·4 |
| Deaths | ... | ... | 80 | 43 | 37 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | | | ... | ... | 13·9 |

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

| | |
|--|-----|
| All infants per 1,000 live births, ... | 8 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, | 10 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer, (all ages) ... | 9 |
| „ Measles, (all ages) ... | 1 |
| „ Whooping Cough, (all ages) ... | Nil |
| „ Diarrhœa, (under 2 years of age) ... | Nil |

For the fourth year in succession, the Birth Rate has continued at a high figure, being 1·3 higher than in the previous year and the highest rate recorded since 1921.

Illegitimate births represented 13% of the total births as compared with 16% last year.

There was only one death of an infant under one year of age giving a rate per thousand live births of 8 as compared with 59 last year and a National rate of 46.

The Death Rate, (13·9), is 1·6 higher than in 1944 and 2·5 more than the National average, (11·4). 44 of the 80 deaths were of persons over 70 years of age, equal to 55%.

| AGE | M | F |
|--------|----|----|
| 70-80 | 10 | 10 |
| 80-90 | 12 | 10 |
| 90-100 | 2 | — |
| Totals | 24 | 20 |

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Staff of the Urban District Council consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector. The latter also carries out the duties of Engineer, Surveyor and Markets Inspector.

The County Isolation Hospital at Dereham has accommodation for 96 beds and hutments provide accommodation for a further 29. Shortage of nursing and domestic staff has prevented full use being made of the accommodation available. 4 cases from the District were admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

There was a further drop in the number of children immunised against Diphtheria during the Year and the proportion of the lower age group protected remains unsatisfactory.

The necessity for immunising children in the susceptible younger age group cannot be too strongly emphasised.

The figures of those immunised and estimated child population are as follows :

| TOTAL NUMBERS IMMUNISED. | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----|------------|------|
| Year | 1-5 years | | 5-15 years | |
| | Totals | | Totals | |
| 1941 | 118 | | 814 | |
| 1942 | 102 | | 35 | |
| 1943 | 103 | | 46 | |
| 1944 | 70 | | 24 | |
| 1945 | 44 | | 2 | |
| | Totals | | Totals | |
| | 437 | | 921 | |
| Estimated child pop. (1945) | 554 | .. | .. | 1010 |
| Percentage immunised | .. | 48 | .. | 56 |

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) WATER.

The average daily consumption was 131,990 gallons as compared with 132,054 gallons in the previous year, the average daily pumping hours being 15·6 compared with 16·5 in 1944.

Pumping was at the rate of 8,461 gallons per hour.

Early in the Year, the District Council decided to deepen the original well and borehole in order to have a reliable standby in place of the new borehole (No. 3), which is now the only source capable of maintaining the necessary supply. Application has been made to the Ministry of Health to be allowed to put this work in hand.

The following analyses of the Town supply were taken during the year :

(1) January —No. 3 Borehole, ex. rising main.

| | | | | Grains per gallon | Parts per 100,000 |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|----|---|----------------------|
| Total solids in solution | | | | 22·75 | 32·5 |
| Ammonia | { | Free and saline | .. | 0·012 | 0·017 |
| | | Albuminoid | .. | 0·0007 | 0·001 |
| Chlorine in Chlorides | | | | 1·6 | 2·3 |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates | | | | Nil | Nil |
| Nitrogen as Nitrites | | | | Nil | Nil |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate | | | | 0·0217 | 0·031 |
| Hardness | { | Total | .. | 16° | 23·0 |
| | | Permanent | .. | 4° | 5·7 |
| Free CO ₂ | | | | 1·38 | 1·97 |
| Iron | { | Total | .. | 0·077 | 0·11 |
| | | In solution | .. | 0·0087 | 0·0124 |
| Physical Characters | | | | Clear when received becoming turbid with small rusty sediment on standing | |

Remarks:

My last analysis of this supply was in December, 1943. The water maintains its excellent organic quality, whilst there is a small increase in chlorides and a decrease in hardness and iron content. The hardness is rather below than above the average for Norfolk water. Except for the iron content, which can be removed by the usual treatment, the water is of good quality for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply. The free carbonic acid is very moderate, and I see no reason why the water should show any abnormal action upon metals.

(Signed) W. LINCOLNE SUTTON,
Norfolk & Suffolk County Laboratories,
Norwich.

(2) August—Water from domestic tap at Gasworks House.

| | | | | Grains per gallon | Parts per 100,000 |
|---|---|-----------------------|--------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total solids in solution | | | | 23.7 | 33.8 |
| Ammonia | } | Free and saline | 0.0084 | 0.0121 | |
| | | Albuminoid | Trace | Trace | |
| Chlorine in Chlorides | | | | 1.7 | 2.43 |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates | | | | Nil | Nil |
| Nitrogen as Nitrites | | | | Nil | Nil |
| Oxygen absorbed from permanganate | | | | 0.032 | 0.046 |
| Hardness | } | Total | 16.2° | 23.15 | |
| | | Permanent | 3.1° | 4.43 | |
| Physical Characters | | | | | |
| Slightly turbid and discoloured owing to separated iron. | | | | | |
| Iron | } | Total | 0.055 | 0.079 | |
| | | In solution | 0.007 | 0.010 | |

(3) August—Tap sample from consumer in Quebec Road,
(Bacteriological):

| Mark | Colonies per ml. on agar at 37° C. | B coli | | B aerogenes | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | Present in ml. | Absent in ml. | Present in ml. | Absent in ml. |
| "Town Water" | 24° | | 100 | | 100 |

REMARKS :

This supply was last analysed (ex rising main) on 22nd January, 1945. The water maintains its great organic purity, whilst its bacteriological quality is quite satisfactory. The sample shows less iron content both total and in solution. The total hardness is unchanged, but the permanent hardness is lower. The water is quite fit for drinking purposes, but it would, of course, be improved for the purposes of a public supply if the iron were removed.

(Signed) W. LINCOLNE SUTTON,

Norfolk & Suffolk County Laboratories,
Norfolk.

In May, the District Council decided to install a permanent automatic pump for the new borehole.

Jentique Ltd., Furniture Manufacturers, applied for a 6" water main to be laid to their works to operate a sprinkler fire system, and the District Council agreed to provide this.

Water beetles noticed in the supply tank have been identified by Mr. Lincolne Sutton, as Gyrinidae, which are, in themselves, harmless.

During November, the Waterworks site was levelled by a bulldozer and generally tidied up. The whole area should now be put down to grass and kept closely mown.

A 1½-in. metered supply to the London & North Eastern Railway Station has been installed.

A new underpressure drilling apparatus has been acquired, enabling up to 2 in., i.d. water supply to be made to the mains without interference with the public supply.

A total of 48,177,345 gallons were pumped during the Year, representing a slight decrease as compared with the previous year.

Proportion of dwelling houses with Town water supply :

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|
| (a) Direct to the houses | ... | 45% |
| (b) By means of standpipes | ... | 15% |

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewerage Works have functioned fairly satisfactory, but the distributor arms of Nos. 3 and 4 filters require renewal. This work will be carried out in the course of the next few months.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The position as regards domestic sanitation is as follows :

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----------|---|------------|
| Pail closets in houses condemned or scheduled | ... | 138 | = | 24.5% |
| Pail closets in houses where connection is possible | ... | 145 | = | 25.7% |
| Pail closets in houses impossible to connect | ... | 277 | = | 49.1% |
| Pail closets in houses (Sewer extentions) | ... | 4 | = | 0.7% |
| | | <hr/> 564 | = | <hr/> 100% |

The total number represents a reduction of 70 during the year.

The question of installing main drainage to the Toftwood area is now under consideration by the District Council. When this area is sewered, it will be possible to abolish 467 of the 564 existing pail closets.

Between the years 1930 and 1939, 227 pail closets were converted to the water carriage-system. Of this number, 206 conversions were effected by informal action taken by the District Council. Of the remaining 21, 2 were converted by statutory action and 19 voluntarily. During the same period, 36 pail closets were abolished.

(4) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

9 privy vaults and 2 cesspools were cleared during the Year and some 1,700 dustbins emptied weekly.

The District Council is now considering an alternative means of refuse disposal to replace the present refuse dump at the rear of Northgate.

(5) SUMMARY OF DUTIES CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Houses and premises inspected | ... | 359 |
| Nuisances abated | | 21 |
| Houses disinfected | | 4 |
| Disinfections of bedding | | 4 |

(6) SALVAGE.

The amount of salvage collected during the Year has diminished considerably. Waste paper, which has been the main source of supply and revenue, has fallen off owing to collections being made from business premises on a commercial basis. The total waste paper collected was $58\frac{1}{2}$ tons as compared with 91 tons in the previous year.

Small quantities of textiles and bones have been collected, 32 cwt. and 12 cwt. respectively. Metals and rubber are no longer required, but small quantities have been received.

The scheme is still in operation and paying its way, reflecting great credit upon the Honorary Organiser.

Sec. D.

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected in the District during the Year :

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----|-----|
| (a) | By the Local Authority | ... | Nil |
| (b) | By other bodies or persons | ... | Nil |

Summary of houses erected by the Urban District Council up to the end of 1945 :

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 and 1924 | ... | 64 |
| Housing Acts, 1930, 1936 and 1938 | ... | 80 |
| | | <hr/> 144 <hr/> |

8 of the houses built under the 1938 Act were for the relief of overcrowding.

No alteration in rents was made during the year.

Plans have been passed for the erection of the following 32 permanent houses, and work should commence early in the New Year :

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Becclesgate Estate | ... | ... | 22 |
| Toftwood | ... | ... | 8 |
| Etling Green | ... | ... | 2 |

The Ministry of Health has sanctioned the erection of 20 temporary houses, and a site has been obtained for these at Littlefields.

Plans for the provision of further houses on a much larger scale are being considered by the District Council.

Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply* :—

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :

| | |
|--|----|
| (i) Number of registered purveyors of milk | 10 |
| (ii) Number of registered cow-keepers and wholesale purveyors of milk | 19 |

Milk (Special Designations), Orders, 1936 & 1938 :

| | |
|--|---|
| (i) Number of licensed producers of Accredited Milk | 6 |
| (ii) Number of licensed purveyors of Accredited Milk | 5 |

Milk samples :

10 samples were taken for examination. 2 were sent to the County Laboratory for the methylene blue test, one of which failed. 8 samples were sent Chorley Wood to be tested for Tubercle bacilli, all of which proved negative.

Samples of the milk supply to households from which cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis are notified are examined for the presence of Tubercle bacilli.

(b) *Meat and other Foods* :—

Slaughtering is carried out at a central slaughter-house under Government control.

Condemned as unfit for human consumption :

| | Cattle | Calves | Sheep & L. | Pigs |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|------------|------|
| <i>Tuberculosis :</i> | | | | |
| Whole carcasses | 17 | — | — | 4 |
| Organs or parts | 158 | — | — | 2 |
| <i>Other diseases :</i> | | | | |
| Whole carcasses | 3 | — | 4 | 3 |
| Organs or parts | 172 | 1 | 5 | 13 |

Miscellaneous Foods :—

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Tinned foods ... | 220 tins | Beans ... | 358 lbs. |
| Tinned Milk ... | 195 tins | Rice ... | 95 lbs. |
| Cereals ... | 92 packets | Meat ... | 79 lbs. |
| Dates ... | 8 lbs. | | |

*Sec. F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL
OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES*

| Disease | Total cases notified | Cases admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Scarlet Fever .. | 2 | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 4 | — | 2 |
| Whooping Cough | 31 | — | — |
| Measles | 44 | 2 | 1 |
| Dysentery | 1 | — | — |
| Typhoid | 2 | 2 | — |

The Dysentery case was a Sonne's infection. The Typhoid cases were Para B. infection, both belonging to the same household.

AGE GROUPS :—

| AGE GROUPS (years) | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | 65 & over |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 24 | — | — | 4 | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Typhoid | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945 :—

| Age Groups | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 — 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 — 5 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 — 15 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| 15 — 25 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 25 — 35 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35 — 45 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45 — 55 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55 — 65 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 & upwards | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Totals | 2 | — | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | — | — |

The fatal case had been notified prior to death.

There were 3 fewer cases notified than during the previous year.

At the end of the Year, there were 54 cases of Tuberculosis on the District Register, 14 respiratory and 40 non-respiratory.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

At the beginning of the Year there were about 100 evacuated persons accommodated in the Town and 12 houses requisitioned for the purpose. With the cessation of hostilities, most of these returned home, but a few remained in requisitioned houses.

Four houses are still under requisition to accommodate evacuated persons and two inhabited by persons previously inadequately housed. All are paying full rent.

There are no evacuees billeted in private houses.

BRITISH RESTAURANT.

The British Restaurant ceased to function at the end of the Year, having been in operation for five years.

The Restaurant has been largely patronised, and thanks are due to the Centre Organiser, Mrs. Gordon Aldiss, and her voluntary staff for the splendid work they have done.

The Cook maintained a high standard and has served the Restaurant from its inception.

EMERGENCY MATERNITY HOME.

The County Emergency Maternity Home near Downham Market has provided accommodation throughout the Year. With the high birth rate and the present shortage of housing accommodation and domestic help, it has served a great need.

The County Council should soon be in a position to provide additional institutional accommodation for maternity cases. Here again, shortage of nurses and domestic workers probably accounts for the present delay.

NORMAN E. D. CARTLEDGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

